STATE OF OKLAHOMA

OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENT
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May 4, 2012

Mr. Sam Coleman
Acting Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region VI (6-RA)
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Subject: Proposal for inclusion of the Wilcox Refinery (OK0001010917), Bristow, Creek County, Oklahoma on the National Priorities List (NPL)

Dear Mr. Coleman:

This letter is in response to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) request for concurrence from the State of Oklahoma for the proposal to include the Wilcox Refinery Site on the NPL. I am writing you as Governor Fallin's designee regarding environmental issues.

The Site Remediation Section of the Land Protection Division, Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), has been actively involved with the investigation of the Wilcox Refinery site since it was identified in 1994. Former refineries are of great concern to the State due to the large amount of wastes produced by these facilities, the levels of heavy metals and organic chemicals associated with the wastes, and the threat that these contaminants pose to human health and the environment.

The State of Oklahoma believes that the site is eligible for inclusion on the NPL, as indicated by the DEQ investigations and preliminary modeling. Use of Superfund is the most viable mechanism available to pay for the remediation. A church with a playground and six residences are located on the former refinery. The potentially responsible party (PRP) has turned down DEQ's request to clean up the site voluntarily.

The State of Oklahoma supports the inclusion of the Wilcox Refinery Site on the NPL and requests assistance in addressing the contamination because current state resources will not facilitate a timely response.

Sincerely,

Gary Sherrer
Secretary of Environment

cc: Honorable Mary Fallin, Governor, State of Oklahoma
       Steve Thompson, Executive Director, Oklahoma DEQ
       Pamela Phillips, Acting Director, Superfund Division, EPA Region 6